

REMARKS

Applicants reply to the Office Action mailed on May 2, 2006. Claims 1-11 and 13-15 were pending and the Examiner rejects claims 1-11 and 13-15. In reply, Applicants amend claims 1, 2, 9, and 11, add claims 16-18, and address the Examiner's remarks. Support for the amendments may be found in the originally-filed specification, claims, and figures. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully assert that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time the inventions covered therein were made and therefore, Applicants have complied with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

35 U.S.C. § 112 REJECTIONS

Claims 1-11 and 13-15 stand rejected as being indefinite regarding the limitation "a preset transaction limitation independent of any limitation associated with said account." The preset transaction limitations provide levels of security in certain purchases, other than the maximum limit placed on the financial account itself. Nonetheless, Applicants have removed this limitation from claim 1 without prejudice to filing one or more claims with similar limitations.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejections of claims 1-11 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103 REJECTION

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Li, U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0153242 ("Li") in view of Saito, U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0240778 ("Saito") and Baer, U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0232471 ("Baer"). Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burchette Jr., U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0106935 ("Burchette") in view of Saito and Baer. Claim 15 stands rejected over Li/Saito/Baer in view of Black, U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0122209 ("Black"). Claim 15 stands rejected over Burchette/Saito/Baer in view of Black. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants' amendment to independent claim 1 renders these rejections moot. While Li, Saito, Baer, Burchette, and Black disclose various biometrics technologies useful in transactions,

neither Li, Saito, Baer, Burchette, Black, nor any combination thereof, disclose or suggest a method comprising at least “accessing at least one of a partner file structure and a common file structure stored on a smartcard having an integrated circuit device comprising a common application and a second application, said second application being configured to store travel-related information associated with a cardholder; said second application comprising said common file structure and said partner file structure, wherein said partner file structure provides write access to a field within said partner file structure for a first partnering organization and denies write access to said field for a second partnering organization, and said common file structure provides write access for said first partnering organization and said second partnering organization to a file in said common file structure,” as recited in amended claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants assert that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. Claims 2-11 and 13-15 variously depend from claim 1 and contain all of the elements thereof. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-11 and 13-15 are differentiated from the cited reference at least for the same reasons as set forth above, in addition to their own respective features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-11 and 13-15.

NEW CLAIMS 16-18

New claims 16-18 variously depend from claim 1 and contain all of the elements thereof. Therefore, Applicants assert that new claims 16-18 are differentiated from the cited references at least for the same reasons as set forth above, in addition to their own respective features.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims (17 total, 1 independent) are in condition for allowance. No new matter is added in this Reply. Reconsideration of the application is thus requested. **The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-2814.** Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner has any questions regarding this Reply or the application in general.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: Kirk Dorius
Kirk Dorius
Reg. No. 54,073

SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.
400 East Van Buren
One Arizona Center
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-2202
Telephone: (602) 32-6544
Facsimile: (602) 382-6070
E-mail: kdorius@swlaw.com